

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-05 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

AID-05 EB-07 CIEP-01 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 IO-10 /088 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3078

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 13231

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, EY, GR, TU, IT

SUBJECT: EC-9 FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING IN VENICE - CYPRUS

REF: ROME 13204

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1. POLITICAL DIRECTOR AT MFA, AMBASSADOR PLAJA, BRIEFED DCM

EVENING SEPTEMBER 14 ON HIGHLIGHTS OF EC-9 FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING IN VENICE.

2. ACCORDING TO PLAJA THE MOST IMPORTANT EC-9 DECISION WAS TO MOVE FORWARD VIGOROUSLY IN TRYING TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THE CYPRUS PROBLEM. FOREIGN MINISTER RUMOR AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NINE WILL MEET SEPTEMBER 16 IN BRUSSELS WITH TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER CAGLAYANGIL. THIS WILL BE A RESTRICTED MEETING IN WHICH RUMOR WILL PRESS THE TURK TO MAKE SOME CONCESSIONS IN ORDER TO GET THE NEGOTIATIONS AMONG THE CYPRIOTS OFF DEAD CENTER.

3. PLAJA SAID THAT THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT WITHIN THE NINE OVER STEPS TO TAKE BUT THE FRENCH WERE MORE CRITICAL OF THE TURKS THAN THE OTHERS. HE SAID THE UK GAVE WEIGHT TO THE ARGUMENT THAT THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT COULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO MAKE DIFFICULT DECISIONS WITHIN FOUR WEEKS OF MAJOR ELECTIONS. THE FRENCH REFUSED TO ACCEPT THIS AS AN EXCUSE FOR NO ACTION BY THE TURKS.

4. THE NINE WILL TELL THE TURKS THAT UNLESS THEY ARE PREPARED TO PERMIT SOME MOVEMENT ON CYPRUS (SUCH AS SURFACING DENKTASH'S PROPOSALS), THERE IS NO HOPE OF A SOLUTION AND THAT WE WILL "ONLY BE PLAYING WITH WORDS." THE NINE ARE CONVINCED THAT THE GREEK AND TURKISH CYPRIOTS (PARTICULARLY THE FORMER) ARE READY TO MAKE CONCESSIONS. THE NINE WOULD EXPECT THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS TO CONTINUE UNDER THE AEGIS OF WALDHEIM. THE NINE WILL INFORM THE TURKS THAT WHILE THEY WERE PREPARED TO TALK TO THE UNITED STATES ABOUT THE ARMS EMBARGO IN A NATO FRAMEWORK, IT IS QUITE CLEAR THAT THE EMBARGO PROBLEM WOULD BE EASIER TO RESOLVE IF THE TURKS GAVE SOME SIGN OF POSITIVE ACTION. IN CONNECTION WITH THE EMBARGO THE NINE INTEND TO TELL THE GREEKS THAT INSISTENCE ON MAINTAINING THE EMBARGO IS COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. HOWEVER, THE APPROACH TO THE GREEKS WILL BE HELD UP PENDING THE RESULTS OF THE DEMARCHE TO THE TURKS. PLAJA NOTED THAT THE GREEKS SEEM AMBIVALENT ABOUT THE EMBARGO. PLAJA SAID THAT THE NINE ARE CONVINCED THAT THE TURKS ARE MAINLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PROBLEM AT THIS JUNCTURE BUT THAT THEY WOULD CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN THE FACADE OF EVEN-HANDEDNESS.

5. IN CONCLUSION PLAJA NOTED THAT ITALIANS HAVE THE LEADING
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ROLE AS PRESIDENT OF THE NINE BUT SAID THAT THIS ROLE IS NOT EXCLUSIVE AND THAT OTHER COUNTRIES PARTICULARLY THE FRG WOULD PROBABLY BE TAKING AN INITIATIVE WITH THE TURKS. VOLPE

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